IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Sweeney, Patrick J.

Title: VERTEBRAL PROSTHESIS

Appl. No.: 10/686,998

Filing Date: 10/16/2003

Examiner: Barrett, Thomas C.

Art Unit: 3738

Conf. No.: 7428

AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed October 11, 2006, concerning the above-referenced patent application.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows: